

Message Text

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 OES-05 COME-00 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MSO:LBBROWN:MJB

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EA/IMS - P.C. GILL (SUB)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

UNCLAS STATE 094997

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TBIO, MY

SUBJECT: R/V ALPHA HELIX MARINE BIOLOGY EXPEDITIONS: (I)
15 APRIL-30 JUNE 1975; (II) 17 JUNE-16 AUGUST 1975; (III)
21 AUGUST-26 SEPTEMBER 1975; (IV) 1 OCTOBER-6 NOVEMBER 1975

REF: A. STATE 90220; B. KUALA LUMPUR 2054; C. STATE 83057;
D. STATE 67333; E. KUALA LUMPUR 2152; F. STATE A-2600 OF
15 APRIL; G. JAKARTA 4005

1. FOR KUALA LUMPUR: DEPT. APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S CONCERN
WITH MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH
GOM REGARDING RESEARCH VESSEL CLEARANCES. IN DISCUSSING
ALPHA HELIX CLEARANCES WITH GOM, FOLLOWING INFORMATION
MAY BE USEFUL. (LETTERING OF REFERENCES A THROUGH D IS
IDENTICAL TO THAT USED IN REF (E))

2. REF (D) CONTAINED INITIAL PLANS FOR EXPEDITION (I) AS
PROVIDED TO DEPT. BY SCRIPPS. REF (C) SIMILARLY CONTAINED
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INITIAL PLANS FOR EXPEDITION (II). OVERLAP IN DATES WAS
INTENDED TO ALLOW FOR SOME SLIPPAGE IN OPERATIONS. REF (F)
CONTAINS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING SCIENTIFIC
OBJECTIVES OF EXPEDITION (II). EXPEDITION (II) IS FOLLOW-

ON, NOT REPLACEMENT, FOR EXPEDITION (I). DEPT. REGRETS
CONFUSION IN THIS CASE, BUT SCRIPPS INSTITUTION HAS NOT YET

ESTABLISHED CONSECUTIVE NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR ALPHA HELIX
CRUISES. WE ARE PRESSING THEM TO DO SO.

3. REF (D) ASKED EMBASSY TO REQUEST CLEARANCE FROM GOM
FOR RESEARCH PROGRAM AND TWO VISITS BY VESSEL TO SANDAKAN.
AFTER THIS CLEARANCE HAD BEEN REQUESTED, VESSEL WAS IN-
FORMED BY INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES THAT, IF VESSEL LEFT
INDONESIAN WATERS TO CALL AT SANDAKAN IN LATE APRIL,
GOI WOULD NOT PERMIT VESSEL TO RE-ENTER INDONESIAN WATERS
WITHOUT A NEW CLEARANCE. SINCE LOGISTICALLY IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN SUCH NEW CLEARANCE IN TIME
AVAILABLE, VESSEL DECIDED IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CANCEL
APRIL WORK IN MALAYSIAN WATERS. EMBASSY WAS INFORMED
OF THIS DECISION VIA REF (G).

4. LATER, DEPT. WAS INFORMED BY SCRIPPS THAT VESSEL HAD
ALSO DECIDED TO CANCEL SECOND OF TWO PORT CALLS AT SANDA-
KAN WHICH HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN REF (D). DEPT. TRANSMITTED
THIS INFORMATION TO EMBASSY VIA REF (A). THIS, IN EFFECT,
RESULTED IN CANCELLATION OF ALL WORK IN MALAYSIAN WATERS
ORIGINALLY PLANNED AS PART OF EXPEDITION (I).

5. THEREFORE, EMBASSY'S CANCELLATION ON 16 APRIL OF RE-

QUEST TO GOM FOR CLEARANCES NEEDED FOR EXPEDITION (I) IS
APPROPRIATE. NO CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE IN PLANS, AS
SPECIFIED IN REF (C), FOR EXPEDITION (II). SINCE EMBASSY
HAS ALREADY REQUESTED CLEARANCE FOR EXPEDITION (II),
ONLY FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED IS FOR EMBASSY TO PASS TO
GOM ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTAINED REF (F) WHEN IT IS
RECEIVED. VESSEL PLANS NO RPT NO FURTHER RESEARCH IN
MALAYSIAN WATERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1975.

6. SCRIPPS HAS GIVEN NO SPECIFIC REASONS FOR CANCELLA-
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TION OF RESEARCH PLANNED FOR MALAYSIAN WATERS UNDER
EXPEDITION (I). HOWEVER, EMBASSY MAY NOTE TO GOM THAT
SINCE THIS RESEARCH WAS PLANNED AS TWO-PART EFFORT (I.E.,
APRIL AND JUNE), WHEN GOI REQUIREMENTS NECESSITATED CANCEL-
LATION OF FIRST PART OF EFFORT, UTILITY OF SECOND PART IN
JUNE WOULD BE SEVERELY LIMITED. THUS VESSEL DECIDED TO
CANCEL WORK IN MALAYSIAN WATERS COMPLETELY AND TO CON-
CENTRATE ON RESEARCH PLANNED FOR INDONESIAN AND
PHILIPPINE WATERS INSTEAD.

7. FOR MANILA: DEPT. HAS THIS WEEK RECEIVED REQUEST FOR
CLEARANCE FROM GOP FOR ALPHA HELIX TO CONDUCT ADDITIONAL
WORK ON CORAL REEF ECOLOGY AND SEA SNAKE PHYSIOLOGY IN

VISAYAN SEA JUST NORTH OF CEBU DURING PERIOD 21 AUGUST-
26 SEPTEMBER 1975 (EXPEDITION III). DEPT. EXPRESSED

CONCERN TO SCRIPPS OVER APPARENTLY ENDLESS SERIES OF
INDIVIDUAL CLEARANCE REQUESTS WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN
DEALT WITH AS SINGLE COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE. SCRIPPS THEN
INDICATED THAT YET ANOTHER PROGRAM WAS PLANNED FOR STUDY
OF MARINE CRUSTACEANS IN NEGROS/CEBU AREA DURING PERI-
OD 1 OCTOBER - 6 NOVEMBER 1975 (EXPEDITION IV) AFTER WHICH
VESSEL WILL FINALLY RETURN TO U.S.

8. DEPT. HAS ADVISED SCRIPPS TO SUBMIT BACKGROUND INFORMA-
TION ON EXPEDITION IV. AS SOON AS THIS MATERIAL IS RE-
CEIVED, DEPT. WILL FORWARD TO EMBASSY SINGLE PACKAGE
INCLUDING INFORMATION ON EXPEDITIONS (III) AND (IV). KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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